

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH  
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7 NOV 1952

A.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH

OF THE

CWMBRAN URBAN DISTRICT  
FOR THE YEAR 1952

BY

EVELYN D. OWEN, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

INCLUDING

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S  
REPORT

Chas. Price & Sons, Ltd., Cwmbbran.



# THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CWMBRAN

## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1952

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CWMBRAN.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1952 as the Medical Officer of Health for your District. It is drawn up according to the directions of the Ministry of Health, and includes the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	5,850
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1952	...	...	...	13,460
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1952) according to the Rate Books	...	...	...	3,706
Rateable Value 1/4/52	...	...	...	£51,743
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	...	£190 17 3

The estimated population shows an increase from 13,140 in 1951 to 13,460 in 1952. This is the estimated mid-year population. By the end of the year the increase must have been considerably greater because the new Town Corporation completed 210 houses in the West Pontnewydd neighbourhood during the year and while the new houses constructed by the Cwmbran Council were built to house more adequately the people already living in the district the New Town Corporation houses were mainly to be inhabited by families from outside the area with wage earners working in the local factories.

The local industries are concerned chiefly with Iron and Steel, Light Engineering, Motor-Car Components, Tin-Plate, Brick Manufacture and Biscuit making.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births—Legitimate	132	134	266
Illegitimate	2	2	4
Total	134	136	270
Live Birth Fate per 1,000 of the Estimated Resident Population	...	...	...
Live Birth Rate of Monmouthshire	...	...	19.8
Live Birth Rate of England & Wales 1952	...	...	17.17
			15.3



	Male	Female	Total
<b>Still Births</b> ... ..	3	3	6
Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Population			0.44
Monmouthshire Rate ...			0.468
Rate for England & Wales			0.35

	Male	Female	Total
<b>Deaths</b> ... ..	90	69	159
Death Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Resident Population			12.42
Monmouthshire Death Rate ...			11.52
Death Rate for England & Wales 1952			11.3

### MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no deaths attributed to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000	Total
(Live and Still) Births	
For England & Wales	0.72
For Monmouthshire	0.71

### INFANT MORTALITY.

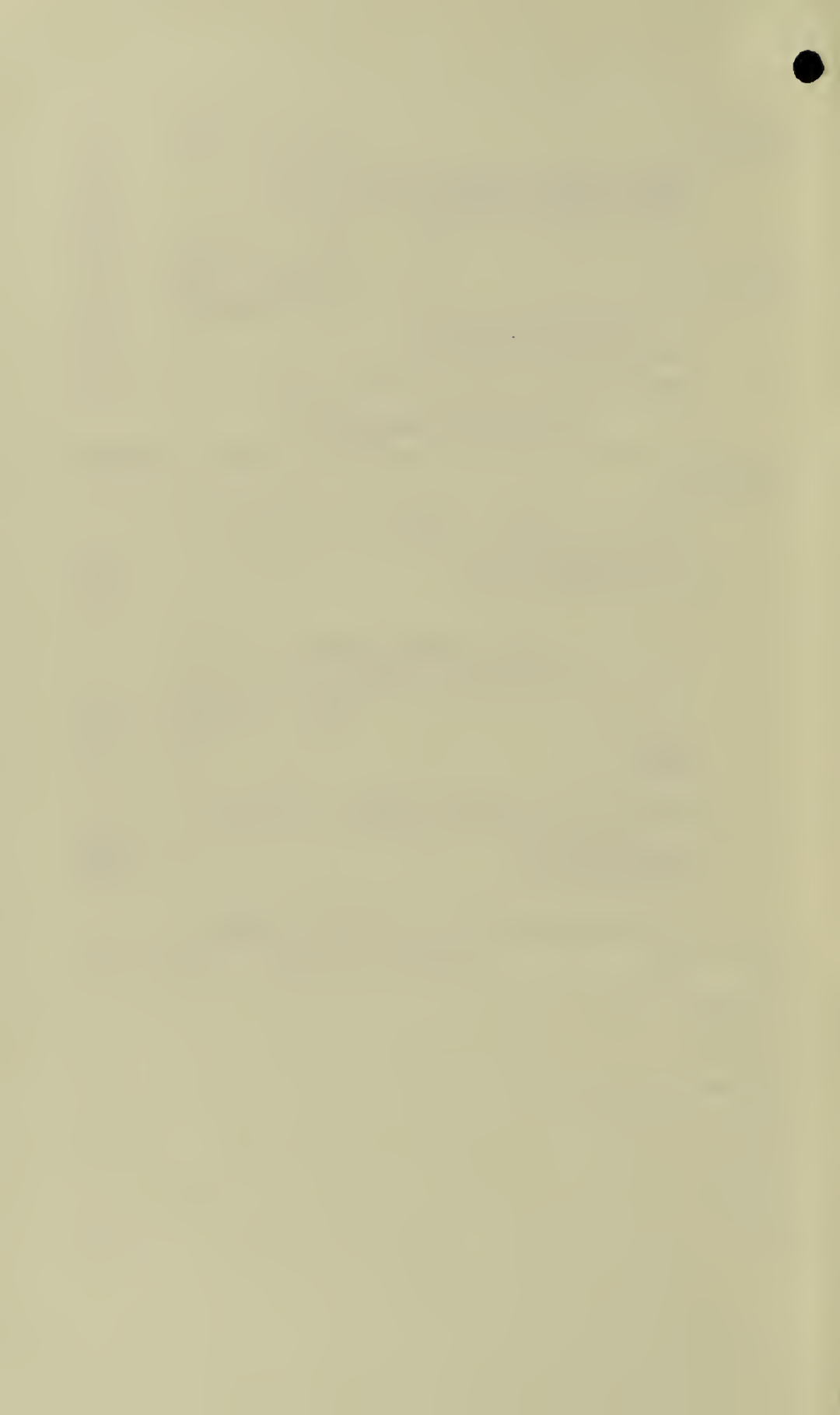
Seven Infants died under the age of one year.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ..	2	4	6
Illegitimate ... ..	1	—	1
Total ... ..	3	4	7

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 Live Births	
Monmouthshire	33.87
England & Wales	27.6

### AGES AND CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS.

Cause of Death	0/1 week	1/4 weeks	4 weeks/1 year
Whooping Cough	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	1
Congenital Malformations	1	—	—
Premature Births	2	—	—
Accident	—	1	—
Meningitis	—	—	1
Total	3	1	3



## DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis, Respiratory ... ..	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—
Measles ... ..	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—
Cancer ... ..	22	13
Diabetes ... ..	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	7	12
Coronary Disease, Angina ... ..	10	—
Other Heart and Circulatory Diseases ...	30	27
Influenza ... ..	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	—	2
Bronchitis ... ..	2	3
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	1	—
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ... ..	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	1	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ... ..	—	—
Congenital Malformations ... ..	—	1
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases ...	7	7
Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	3	1
All Other Accidents ... ..	4	—
Total ...	90	69

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

**Public Health Officers.** The Staff consisted of:—

(a) The Medical Officer of Health, who is also M.O.H. for the Caerleon Urban District Council and Medical Officer for the No. 8 Health Area of the County Council, and (b) The Sanitary Inspector., Mr. O. J. R. Pruden, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

## NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

The Monmouthshire County Council is the authority responsible for the local Health Services under Part III of this Act and the arrangements for these services were the same as in previous years.

**Vaccination and Immunisation.** These services are provided at the Infant Welfare Clinics and also by the general practitioners in the area.

170 children completed the diphtheria immunisation course; 164 being under five years of age and 6 aged 5—14 years 30 children aged 4—9 years received boosting doses.

125 people were vaccinated against smallpox. 120 being children under 15 years of age; 12 others were re-vaccinated.





## **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.**

Section 47—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention. No proceedings were taken under this Section.

### **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

(i) **The Water Supply** is gathered from mountain streams and springs into your own reservoir at Blaen-Bran, augmented by bulk supplies from Newport Corporation. Both supplies are filtered, chemically treated and chlorinated before distribution, and on bacteriological examination have been found to be very satisfactory.

There are still a few isolated houses in the area which derive their water supply from wells. Samples are periodically taken and subjected to bacteriological examination.

The scheme for providing additional water supplies to implement supplies for the existing and New Town of approximately 25,000 population has been commenced, and the work of laying the gravity and pumping mains is nearing completion.

It is also proposed to construct a 1½ million gallon service Reservoir Pumping Plant and Machinery and extensions to the Filtration and Chemical treatment works

(ii) **Drainage and Sewerage.** The whole of the area is now served with the exception of the Woodlands Upper Cwmbran, Spring Vale and Nightingale Row. The scheme for providing a new sewer for the Nightingale Row area is now in hand. It is hoped to lay new sewers in the near future to bring the remaining properties into the Council's Sewerage System.

(iii) **Rivers and Streams.** The completion of the above works should materially reduce the pollution of the rivers and streams.

(iv) The Council carry out the Collection of Refuse by means of covered freighter vehicles and the disposal is by tipping into the large clay holes at the rear of the Council Offices. Men are employed in spreading and covering each day's collection with surplus soil from the housing estates and slag material from Panteg Steelworks.

(v) **The Cleansing Facilities** provided at the rear of the Council Offices are regularly used by the men employed on the collection of house refuse and the tip attendant. These facilities are greatly appreciated by the workmen.

### **SMOKE ABATEMENT.**

No complaints of smoke nuisances have been received during the year.

### **RODENT CONTROL.**

The Rodent Officer has carried out extensive treatment to various areas of the district. Complaints of individual



occupiers have been attended to and surveys carried out to ascertain the extent of local disinfection. The sewers have been treated by the Surveyor's Department with the assistance of the Rodent Operative.

### **SWIMMING BATHS OR POOLS.**

There are no publicly or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the area.

### **SCHOOLS.**

Periodical visits have been carried out in respect to the sanitary condition and nuisances in the schools. No reports of insanitary conditions were made.

### **PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.**

The number of Informal Notices served was 73.

Statutory Notices, 58.

Informal Notices complied with, 66.

Statutory Notices complied with, 49.

### **FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & BAKEHOUSES.**

114 inspections of Registered Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses were made during the year.

Sanitary defects found	...	...	...	29
Defects remedied	...	...	...	29
Informal Notices Served	...	...	...	13
Want of Cleanliness	...	...	...	17
Defective Closet Accommodation	...	...	...	12

In each case Informal Notices were complied with.

No Statutory Action was found necessary.

### **REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.**

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers

...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
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### **ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.**

**A**—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| (i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs | 83 |
| (ii) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices: |    |
| (a) By owners   | 71 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners   | 4  |

**B**—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 105 |
|--|-----|



- (ii) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice
- |   |     |     |     |     |    |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| (a) By owners                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | 73 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7  |
- C—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the

Housing Act, 1936:—

- (i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ... Nil
- (ii) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders ... Nil
- D—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing

Act, 1936:—

- (i) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made ... Nil
- (ii) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

**Milk Supply.**—Samples of milk were taken from time to time for bacteriological analysis. No evidence of tuberculosis was found.

The following works have been carried out:—

#### Meat Shops:

Washing Facilities	...	...	...	...	Nil
Hot and Cold Water	...	...	...	...	1
Internal Cleansing & Structural Alterations	...	...	...	...	3
Decoration and Painting	...	...	...	...	7

#### Bakehouses:

Nuisances Abated	...	...	...	...	12
Closet Accommodation	...	...	...	...	3
Limewashing	...	...	...	...	5
Structural Improvements	...	...	...	...	3

#### Refreshment Houses and Shops:

Improved Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	2
Structural Alterations	...	...	...	...	5
Decoration and Painting	...	...	...	...	1

#### Licensed Premises:

Washing facilities	...	...	...	...	1
Sanitary Accommodation	...	...	...	...	2
Repairs and Nuisances	...	...	...	...	8

#### Clubs:

Since commenting in my last year's report on the inability of local authorities to enter the various clubs used for the sale of drink and food in the way that they are able to supervise Public Licensed Premises, I am pleased to note that the Council have



taken an interest in the matter, and have decided to take steps to have a question asked in the House with a view to obtaining the appropriate legislation. Since there is no sale of food in the legal sense in a Club, Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act cannot be applied to such premises. Therefore an amendment of the Act would be necessary in order to make it possible to apply this Section to the transactions which take place in a Club.

With the tremendous increase in the number of this type of premises in the last few years, the lack of supervision of their sanitary and hygienic arrangements by Health Departments suggests a grave danger of the possibility of outbreak of infectious diseases and food poisoning.

It is hoped that when the new Food and Drugs Bill is introduced into Parliament the seriousness and importance of this aspect of the subject will be taken into consideration and the necessary changes in the legislation will be made.

### UN SOUND FOODSTUFFS.

All foodstuffs have been periodically inspected during the year.

The following unsound foodstuffs have been surrendered and destroyed:—

Tins of Milk	...	...	...	...	...	31
Tins of Meat	...	...	...	...	...	62
Tins of Fish	...	...	...	...	...	11
Meat (lbs)	...	...	...	...	...	107
Bacon (lbs)	...	...	...	...	...	56
Cheese (lbs)	...	...	...	...	...	16
Butter (lbs)	...	...	...	...	...	28

### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

**Food Poisoning**—No food poisoning outbreaks occurred during the year.

**Diphtheria, Acute Poliomyelitis.**—No case of either of these diseases occurred during the year.

**Whooping Cough.**—Was very prevalent in the district in the Spring. One death was attributed to this disease.

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

#### DURING THE YEAR 1952.

Disease				Total Cases... Notified	Cases Admitted into Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	...	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	3	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	139	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	91	—	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	7	—	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—





	Under 1 Year	1/2	3/4	5/9	10/14	15 44	45 64	65 and over
1. Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
2. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Whooping Cough	9	24	40	17	1	—	—	—
4. Measles	5	32	44	58	—	—	—	1
5. Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	1	2	3	—

### TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality During 1952.

		NEW CASES				DEATHS			
		Non-Respiratory				Non-Respiratory			
Age Periods		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
under 1		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—5		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-10		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-15		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-20		0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
20-25		1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-35		1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
35-45		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-55		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-65		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 & upwards		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals		4	9	0	1	0	0	0	0

It is seen from the table that there were 14 new cases of Tuberculosis in the area during the year. 5 of these were inward transfers from other areas, leaving only 9 new cases arising in the district itself. In 1951 there were 10 and in 1950, 19 new cases. There was no death attributed to Tuberculosis in 1952.

### Mass Radiography Service.

A General Population Survey was made in the district in November. The usual wide advertisement of the dates and purpose of the survey by bills and posters and by individual circulars to the houses in the area was made. The Unit attended for a week at the Drill Hall, holding sessions, morning, afternoon and evening each day.



It was extremely unfortunate that the exceptionally early winter caused the visit to coincide with a period of unusual cold with sleet and snow, so that a total of only 862 people attended for examination—451 males and 411 females. Not one of these was found to be suffering from Tuberculosis but 7 (2 males and 5 females) were listed as needing further observation. 50 persons (24 males and 26 females) were found to have other abnormalities of the chest.

Most of the local factories have regular periodical visits from the Unit. This, together with the bad weather and some undoubted indifference in the public seems to account for the small attendance at this survey

### HOUSING.

	Temporary	Permanent
Number of Houses owned by Local Authority on 31st December, 1952	200	881
Number of Local Authority Houses in course of erection on 31st Dec. 1952	—	172
Number of Houses for which sanction had been given but which had not been commenced on 31st Dec. 1952	—	142
Local Authority	—	46
Housing Association	—	96
<b>Total Number of Houses Erected During the Year:—</b>		
By Local Authority ... ..	—	68
By Private Enterprise ... ..	—	7
By Housing Association ... ..	—	36
Total ... ..	—	111
<b>New Town Corporation.</b>		
Houses completed during the year ...	—	210
Under construction 31.12.52		
Flats—2 bedroom ... ..	—	8
Houses—2 bedroom ... ..	—	106
3 bedroom ... ..	—	179
4 bedroom ... ..	—	26

The Council's Housing Programme has been implemented with sustained effort during the year. Continuity of constructional work was maintained both by contractors engaged on non-traditional houses and by the Council's direct labour building in traditional brickwork. During the first half of the year work was concentrated at Oakfield Park where the Council introduced for the first time the construction of single and two bedroom flats. These formed end units to short terraces with two or four 3-bedroom houses occupying the intermediate positions. As the year



advanced it became apparent that the future needs for housing accommodation should provide for more of the smaller types of dwellings. It was therefore decided to construct a reasonable proportion of single and two bedroom flats together with three bedroom traditional and Easiform houses at Ty-trappa site, Pontnewydd. These were approaching completion stage at the end of the year. This accounts for the relatively high number of houses still under construction in the report and the smaller number of dwellings completed in comparison with the previous year. A new site at Two Locks, Cwmbran, planned for 195 dwellings, was well under way by the close of the year. No dwellings on this site had reached completion but will eventually provide 76 three-bedroom houses, 91 two-bedroom dwellings comprising 48 flats and 43 houses together with 28 single-bedroom flats.

My thanks are due to the other Officers of the Council who have provided me with certain material for this report.

I am, ladies and gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

EVELYN D. OWEN.

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